

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Corrected or substitute drawings indicated as received on July 11, 2003 have been accepted.

Claims 1-16 and 19-24 are pending in this application.

No claims have been amended.

No claims have been cancelled.

No claims have been added.

Claims 1-16 have been allowed.

Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,216,673 issued to Kanai (hereinafter referred to as "Kanai").

Claims 22-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Acceptance of July 11, 2003 Drawings

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner has accepted the drawings received on July 11, 2003.

Allowable Subject Matter in Claims 1-16

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-16 contain allowable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection of Claims 19-21

The Examiner has rejected claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being considered to be anticipated by Kanai. Applicant respectfully submits that

claims 19-21 are not anticipated by Kanai, because Kanai does not teach each and every element of Applicant's invention as claimed.

Regarding at least claim 19, the Office Action asserts that Kanai (specifically, Figures 3 and 4A of Kanai) teaches various couplings between memory cells within memory arrays 11A and 11B and various bit lines. Applicant respectfully submits that this assertion is in error, because what the Office Action points to as being memory cells in Kanai (i.e., MUT A1-A4 and B1-B4 in Kanai) are revealed in the text of Kanai to be memory devices accepting addresses and data, and outputting data on 4-bit data buses, and therefore, are clearly not memory cells. Indeed, Applicant further respectfully submits that a reading of Kanai reveals that Kanai is utterly silent concerning any coupling of any memory cell to any bit line, and therefore, it is not possible for Kanai to in any way teach any of the various couplings of the first and second memory cells to the first, second and third bit lines that are recited by Applicant's claimed invention.

Further regarding at least claim 19, the Office Action also asserts that Kanai teaches a coupling of an input of a comparator to a multiplexer to be selectively coupled to either of two other bit lines. Applicant respectfully submits that this assertion is also in error, because a review of the entirety of Kanai reveals not one instance in which an input of a comparator is coupled to a multiplexer in any way. Therefore, it is not possible for Kanai to in any way teach any selective coupling of a comparator input to a bit line that is selected by a multiplexer.

Regarding claims 20 and 21, Applicant respectfully submits that a reading of the entirety of Kanai reveals that Kanai is utterly silent with regard to any aspect or any characteristic of any memory cell, and therefore, it is not possible for Kanai to in any way teach that the first and second memory cells of

Applicant's claimed invention are either dynamic RAM, static RAM memory cells, or indeed, teach that the first and second memory cells are based on any specific technology.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 19-21 are patentably distinguished over Kanai, and are in condition for allowance.

Objections to Claims 22-24

The Examiner has objected to claims 22-24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that claims 22-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 22-24 contain allowable subject matter.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 22-24 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 19 which Applicant has asserted is patentably distinguished over Kanai. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection to claims 22-24 has been obviated, and that these claims are already in condition for allowance.

Condition for Allowance

Applicant submits that all rejections have been overcome and the present application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any additional charges or shortages related to the present communication, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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